

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PA-01  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
/054 W

-----021585 221732Z /41

O 221620Z JUN 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO USICA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9093  
AMCONSUL IBADAN  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7739

USICA

FOR USICA FOR AF AND ECA, STATE FOR AF/W  
BORDEAUX AND NIAMEY FOR AMB EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: N/A  
SUBJECT: FMG POSITION ON GRANTS TO AND COMMUNICATION WITH NIGER-  
IANS

1. ON JUNE 14 CHARGE CALLED IN BY PERM SEC OF MEA WHO CALLED  
HIS ATTENTION TO AWARD LETTER SIGNED BY PAO AND SENT TO SEC  
OF MILITARY GOVT (SMG) AND HEAD OF SERVICE OF OYO STATE, MR.  
T.K. AKINYELE, FOR AN IVP COMMENCING IN JULY. MEA LETTER  
REFERRED TO DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED DEC 8, 1977, WHICH DREW  
ATTENTION OF ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS IN NIGERIA "...TO PROPER  
CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION ON MATTERS AFFECTING HOME MINISTRIES,  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OR EVEN PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ON  
MATTERS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA." THE LETTER EMPHASIZED"...  
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THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD VIEW WITH DISFAVOR ANY VIOLATION OF  
THIS PRINCIPLE."

2. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS LETTER AND NOTE, PAO AND ACAA  
EXCHANGES CALLED ON AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE A. FABUNMI,  
DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND CONSULAR DEPT, MEA, ON JUNE 20, TO  
DISCUSS IMPORT OF THIS NOTE ON EMBASSY'S EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

PAO EXPLAINED NATURE OF U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND GAVE SOME DETAIL OF OUR MODUS OPERANDI. FABUNMI SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH OUR PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, HE INSISTED THAT EMBASSY SHOULD ANNOUNCE ALL GRANTS TO MEA, PROVIDING DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM, TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS BEING SOUGHT, AND DEADLINES AND OTHER DATES REQUIRED. MEA, HE SAID, WOULD THEN NOTIFY APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES OR ADVERTISE FOR SUITABLE CANDIDATES. THESE CANDIDATES WOULD THEN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW IN WHICH EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. HE ADDED THAT IF EMBASSY SO DESIRED, WE COULD ENTER OUR OWN CANDIDATES BY HAVING THEM APPLY THROUGH HIS OFFICE. HE PROMISED THAT THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIVE COULD VETO ANY CANDIDATE PUT FORWARD BY THE MINISTRY BUT MEA WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY CANDIDATE OR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS REFERRED DIRECTLY FROM OUR OFFICE.

3. FABUNMI INDICATED THAT REASONS FOR THIS MEASURE AROSE BECAUSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AWARDED GRANTS DIRECTLY BY AN EMBASSY ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RECRUITMENT AS FOREIGN AGENTS. FYI: IN THIS CONNECTION THE ONLY COUNTRY MENTIONED WAS THE USSR. END FYI. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE FMG WAS INTERESTED IN EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CANDIDATES FOR GRANTS TO VISIT FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND THAT ALL CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD BY MEA WOULD BE QUALIFIED IN ALL RESPECTS. IN RESPONSE FABUNMI WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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TOLD THAT ONE OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF OUR IVP SELECTION RESTED ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION AND THIS CARDINAL PRINCIPLE WAS OBSERVED SCRUPULOUSLY BY US, THAT OUR CONSULATES AND BRANCH POSTS ACTIVELY SOUGHT OUT CANDIDATES FROM OTHER THAN THE CAPITAL REGIONS.

4. WHEN AMBASSADOR FABUNMI WAS INFORMED OF THE NUMEROUS ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS REQUIRED FOR MEETING DEADLINES AND GENERATING THE REQUIRED INFORMATION, HE SAID THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD A UNIT THAT WOULD HANDLE THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES. THEREFORE, IT WAS THE MINISTRY'S DESIRE THAT WE PROVIDE HIS OFFICE WITH REQUESTS FOR CANDIDATES, STIPULATING PROGRAMS, TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT, AND DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS. HE ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE PROCESS HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION UNTIL IT BECAME INSTITUTIONALIZED.

5. DISCUSSING OTHER PROGRAMS, FABUNMI SAID MEA NEED NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE AMERICAN PROFESSOR PROGRAM, AMPARTS, NOR THE JFK MEMORIAL ESSAY PROGRAM. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HE IS NOT CONCERNED WITH REQUESTS FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIANS TRAVELING TO THE U.S. ON BUSINESS OR

VACATIONS AND WHO SEEK OUR ASSISTANCE WHILE IN THE U.S.

6. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE POST HAS A NUMBER OF GRANTS IN PROGRESS WHICH WERE UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECEIVING THE NOTE, FABUNMI HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL ACCEPT OUR REQUEST FOR THE COMPLETION OF THESE GRANTS WITH THE PROVISIO THAT WE INDICATE FUTURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE FMG DIRECTIVE IN OUR NOTE TRANSMITTING THE GRANT INVITATIONS FOR DELIVERY.

7. WE SHALL NOT COMMIT OURSELVES IN ANY WAY UNTIL AMBASSADOR EASUM RETURNS TO POST, NOW EXPECTED JUNE 30. THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, POST WILL SUBMIT A CONFIDENTIAL

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COURSE OF ACTION TO AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT. THUS, THERE WILL BE SOME DELAYS ON GRANTEE ARRIVALS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED. WE WILL INFORM THE AGENCY ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS AS ARRIVAL DATES BECOME IMMINENET.

8. IN THE INTERIM, WE WOULD UNDERLINE THAT THE FMG'S POSITION COULD POSSIBLY DAMAGE OUR PROGRAM IN THE COMING FY. HOWEVER, WE ALSO FEEL THAT ONCE THE FMG SEIZED WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES OF OUR PROGRAM, THEY MIGHT REALIZE THAT IT IS FAR TOO VALUABLE A PROGRAM TO HAVE IT EMASCULATED BECAUSE OF THEIR INABILITY TO COPE WITH THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROGRAM AND FOR REASONS WHICH MAY NOT BE VALID.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EDUCATION GRANTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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